QRV?

Summer, 1998

Volume 2, Number 1

The Newsletter of the Seattle Auxiliary Communication Service

Mark's Message

June 20th Emergency Communications Drill

Mark Sheppard, N7LYE

Purpose of the Drill

Seattle ACS participated in the County-wide amateur radio drill. Organized by King County Office of Emergency Management and the County-wide ACS coordinating committee. The goal was to test EOC to EOC communications across the County as a precursor to the Sound Shake 98 Exercise planned for September 20th. The County EOC wanted to test the viability of 2 meter, simplex radio communications between these facilities. Well, given the opportunity, our Seattle Team decided it would be a good time to conduct a general drill of our capabilities. Simultaneous, to the County's drill Seattle deployed radio operators to over 22 locations to test the viability of simplex radio paths in the City as well as to demonstrate the capabilities of our newly constructed network of 440 MHz Ham repeaters, the packet network and the City's 450 MHz Emergency Management repeater system. The communications drill was a big success. We want to thank our ACS members for their participation and preparation. Also, we thank the City of Seattle including the leadership of the Seattle Police Department and the Division of Emergency Management and the Disaster Management Committee. A real big thanks to the City's Radio Shop lead by Georg Smith and a team of radio technicians including our own Tom Saunders, N7OEP for a heroic effort that resulted in significant additions to our communications center, antenna systems and repeaters.

Preparation

The hardest part of a drill is the planning and preparation, once its starts it just seems to go. Many ACS members actively participated in the planning and front end work that helped set the stage for the drill. Additionally, the good turnout of ACS members for the June 6, meeting and training session was key to getting us all on the same page for conducting our exercise… thanks to all who contributed their time to support this effort. Always a big challenge is getting out materials to our team, to confirm post assignments, frequencies and procedures.

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Denise Croysdill of the EOC staff made this happen, getting a couple of key mailing out to the team, just in time. We also wanted to test the EOC fleet of UHF portable radios on the 450 MHz repeaters. Bill Docksteader, W7LSK served as our quartermaster. He trained ACS members on how to use these radios and distributed and collected the equipment after the exercise.

Operations

We decided to set up two area nets to coordinate communications with the radio posts located in the North and South sectors of the City. Alton Cuplin, N7LGL was ACS Command South and Stan Yarema, K7SY was ACS Command North. The South command post was at High Point in West Seattle and the North post was near Maple Leaf Reservoir at 86th and Roosevelt. The plan was to funnel all simplex traffic through these nets and then relay to the EOC. We also tested the repeaters after the simplex drill was completed. John Angell, KB7LYD, worked as a rover, driving to many sites including both community centers and City Operating Centers that were unassigned posts. He operated packet, ham voice as well as 450 MHz OEM.

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QRV? = "Are you prepared?"

QRV? is the Newsletter of the Seattle Auxiliary Communication Service

City of Seattle
Division of Emergency
Management

ACS Net

Mondays 7:00 p.m.
146.96 MHz

443.00 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)
443.00 is monitored most of the day and evening by ACS personnel

ACS Website

http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/engr/home.htm

State & County Nets

Washington State Emergency
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.
3.987 MHz

King County ARES
Sundays at 8:00 p.m.
145.330 MHz

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From The Editor

Leadership

Well, here we are starting the second volume of *QRV?*. Yes, Volume 2, #1! A full year has gone by. Usually year endings and beginnings are celebrated in January. At that time, we read about big events of the past year and predictions of what's in store for the year ahead. Okay, I know this isn't January, but we are ending our first year of publication so I'll take the opportunity as editor of your newsletter to reflect for a moment on where we've been and where we're going.

Over the past year we had drills (remember Seashake '97?), informative meetings, and weekly nets. We identified a training curriculum and timetable for its delivery. Pagers were distributed and used to inform us of ACS events, a new UHF packet digipeater was installed on the Space Needle,. Our organization was granted a club license (W7ACS) from the FCC. Some of you stepped forward to serve as net control when needed. In these and other important ways I don't have space to mention here, we've devoted time and energy in building our organization into one that will provide life-saving communications in the event of civic emergencies.

Little of this would have happened without leadership from many people. Many of you showed leadership by volunteering your talents and energies in moving our organization toward its goals. We also benefitted greatly from the committed leadership of the emergency management professionals with whom we work. Without their support and encouragement, progress toward our goals would have been difficult if not impossible.

It takes a special kind of leadership to direct a group such as ours. In the view of your editor this kind of leadership requires four qualities: The first of these is management skill, the ability to develop and deploy material and human resources to their greatest potential. Advocacy is the second quality of good leaders. Goals must be clearly and passionately advocated not only to members, but also to those outside of the organization who can influence its direction and growth. Readiness is the third quality. Leaders must be ready at any time to step up and take care both of important matters and those innumerable little items that can later grow into troublesome problems. Finally, good leaders must have knowledge. In our case, a thorough, working technical knowledge of radio communications in all its forms. Four qualities: **M**anagement, **A**dvocacy, **R**eadiness, **K**nowedge. Put them together and what do you get? The answer is MARK. Yes, our own Mark Sheppard N7LYE. On behalf of all of us connected with ACS, thanks for the time, effort, and energy you devoted to leading our group, Mark.

Looking ahead, we have good reason to be optimistic. With continuing leadership, next year as we begin Volume 3 of *QRV?* we'll look back on another year of important accomplishments and growth toward our mission, that of providing critically important communications for our community in time of need.

General Membership Meeting

June 6, 1998

A general membership meeting was held at the Discovery Park Visitors Center in Magnolia on Saturday, June 6, 1998. Approximately twenty five members were present. The meeting began with a presentation on Incident Command Systems by Robin Friedman, the Emergency Preparedness Officer of Seattle Public Utilities. Next, Peter Smith N7BYP reviewed training topics scheduled for the upcoming year. Members then prioritized those topics and suggested changes. A revised member survey was distributed by Bill Docksteader W7LSK. Mark Sheppard N7LYE went over assignments and preparations for the June 20th communications exercise and answered questions relating to that drill. Finally, a demonstration of packet radio was presented

Personal Profile: Stan Yarema K7SY

The subject for our personal profile this time is Stan Yarema, the familiar voice we hear on Monday evening nets. You may also have heard him as ACS Command North during our June drill. Stan can trace his interest in radio back farther than most of us. When he was only two years old, he became lost and was found eventually by a police officer. Stan still remembers his amazement and great interest as the officer took him back to the patrol car and used the police radio to speak to headquarters. Stan's interests in radio were also encouraged through childhood by an uncle who was a ham and by Stan's grandfather who gave him a shortwave receiver when he was 12. The following year at 13, Stan earned his novice ticket. He had built a Heath DX35 and was ready to hit the airwaves with cw the moment his ticket arrived in the mail. In high school, as a general class ham, Stan enjoyed working with home brew and surplus military radio equipment.

Like many of us, as Stan grew older, his license expired while he pursued other priorities. He served a hitch in the navy as a radar technician and a later completed his degree in engineering. Stan also worked with laser technologies. Although he wasn't active in amateur radio, Stan's work kept him very much active in the general area of electronics. Again, like many of us, Stan's interests in radio were later re-kindled and he was once again licensed, this time as an extra, in 1991. Today, Stan enjoys operating cw qrp, this mostly on 20 and 80 meters. His main station equipment includes TenTec Omni D and Index QRP Plus transceivers. For antennas, Stan uses an inverted L halfwave for 80 and 160 meters, and for twenty meters, vertical dipole.

We all know Stan as a fellow member of our own Auxiliary Communications Service. In addition to our organization, he is also active in other radio groups, too. Stan serves as the technical editor for the Northwest QRP Club, a large organization with over 400 members. He is also president of the West Seattle Amateur Radio Club, a long time local ham organization that traces its history back over fifty years!

When I visited with Stan in his shack, I was impressed by the well equipped electronic construction/test/repair work bench that is located conveniently close at hand to his radio operating area. Stan posesses many skills in electronic testing, repair, and construction. He is a regular reader of QEX, the amateur radio technical journal. He also is responsible for repair of all Index QRP rigs sold worldwide. When I was there for example, Stan was working on QRP Plus radio which had come all the way from Germany.

When not in the shack, Stan may be found bicycling the Burke-Gilman trail, or walking along the green belt that runs from the Fremont Bridge westward along the north shore of the ship canal. Stan is also interested in mountain climbing and maintains an active membership in the Mountaineers, currently serving as the climb coordinator for that organization.

Stan brings not only helpful technical skills, but also valued personal qualities to ours and other organizations to which he belongs. It is through active participants such as Stan, that organizations such as ours grow and are able to provide valuable services to our communities.

Photo by Pete Smith

Stan Yarema K7SY

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How it Went - What we Learned

The drill was fun and gave us all an opportunity to improve our skills and understand the capabilities of our equipment and procedures. Simplex seemed to work well within the City but was quite limited across the County. Our EOC was only able to communicate with 9 of the 31 EOCs participating in the County exercise. The area command nets seemed to work well. Having a control station up high to coordinate simplex in that geographical area is effective. We learned that on simplex the net control station needs to run higher power (50 watts) and use a good antenna. The simplex paths to the EOC were surprisingly good, allowing us to contact most of the posts directly. There are some posts located at facilities situated on low terrain that would benefit from installation of elevated, permanently mounted antennas.

The repeaters worked well and will provide a good means to insure City-wide communications if they survive a disaster. The NE repeater was not on-line for the drill but was installed the following week and is working well and providing good coverage in the North end of the City. Since we do not have many posts assigned in the South end we have not

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been able to test our repeater and simplex coverage there. We believe that site on south Beacon Hill or the Skyway area may be necessary to cover this area for both Ham and 450 MHz. Packet seemed to cover very well, John was able to contact the EOC via the Space Needle digapeater from many locations all over the City. Our biggest short coming is that we seem to have limited packet capability among the ACS team. Very few members have the combination of computers, packet controllers and UHF Ham radios.

We ran five net control functions out of the EOC with 4 operators. Pete Smith, N7BYP was the operator working the County drill, he monitored both simplex and the 145.11 repeater for general drill coordination. Dave Gorsich. KB7ZQS was monitoring the South area traffic and running net for contacts with the command post and simplex and repeater contacts with posts. Jeff Chang, WB7AHT was performing a similar function for the North area as well as running a net on 450 MHz. to test coverage on the EOC's F-1 and F-2 repeaters. I (Mark, N7LYE) was running the packet system and trying to coordinate the event using the 146.96 PSRG repeater. And a big thanks to PSRG for use of their system as well as the West Seattle Radio Club for use of 441.80 and their participation. Many club members are also ACS members. We learned that we need more operators to train as net control and be experienced in the procedures and practices of the EOC Communications Center. We probably need a team of 5 or 6 on shift at any time during a shift with another team in reserve to provide relief.

We also need to develop similar teams to support the many City Operating Centers which include public safety, public works and the utilities. This Fall we will start a recruiting campaign to attract new members. A primary focus will be to extend SDART and ACS into South Seattle.

We learned a lot from the drill and as a result we will prepare a detailed analysis and recommendation on what to do in terms of equipment, staffing and procedures to address the challenges that faces ACS and its mission to provide communications support to the city.

In addition to those named above we want to thank all the ACS members who staffed radio posts and participated in this drill and helped to make it a success: Russ Sunbury, N7PAU; Dave Prince, WB0RAZ; Tom Croteau, WA9ZSK; Dave Page, KA7TMI; Tom McIntyre, KB7KIF; Jim Hicks, K7BDL; Dave Cook, K7VWI; Don Demmons, K7CDI; Ted Szartrowski, WA7YXG; Gene Brayton, AB7AT; Ben Swisher, KN7A; David Holdsworth, KJ7PW; Harris Johnson, N7SQO; Curt Black, WR5J; Kerman Bagely Jr., KC7GPI; John Middlehauf, K7JBZ; Gerald Kleinbrook, N7EZU; Clarke Stockwell, WA7BVQ; Richard Jameson; W6BFB, Liberto Napat, KB7WCE; and Alex Armean, AB7PK. I apologize if I inadvertently forgot to mention all those who participated.

Our next big event is the September 22, SoundShake 98 Earthquake… get ready, it will be fun…. Thanks to Jim Mullen, Steve Marten and all the folks at the EOC for their continued support of ACS….

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